

## **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Use in Children Vaccine Summary January 2023**

### **Purpose of vaccine summary**

- Effective January 18, 2023, PCV15 (Vaxneuvance) vaccine, manufactured by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC is available to order through the Iowa VFC Program.

### **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Recommendations in Children**

#### **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

- June 17, 2022 the FDA expanded and approved PCV15 for use in children aged 6 weeks through 17 years (In 2021, PCV15 Vaxneuvance was licensed for adults aged  $\geq 18$  years)

#### **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**

#### **[Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Children: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)**

On June 22, 2022, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended use of PCV15 as an option for pneumococcal vaccination of persons aged <19 years according to the currently recommended PCV13 dosing and schedules.

#### **VFC Resolution**

The Federal VFC Program follows the ACIP recommendations for the use of PCV15 as an option for vaccinating eligible children ages 6 weeks through 18 years.

#### **ACIP Recommended Schedule for Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines in Children**

ACIP recommends the use of PCV (either PCV13 or PCV15) for all children 2-59 months of age. In addition, risk-based PCV use is recommended for children 60-71 months with risk conditions and persons aged 6-18 years with an immunocompromising condition, cerebrospinal fluid leak, or cochlear implant. For all recommendations, PCV13 and PCV15 can be used interchangeably. Interruption of the vaccination schedule does not require reinstitution of the entire series or addition of extra doses.

#### **Persons Aged < 19 years with No Previous PCV13 or PCV15 Vaccination**

**Infants aged 2-6 months.** Four doses of PCV (either PCV13 or PCV15) are recommended. The primary infant series consists of 3 doses of PCV. Infants receiving their first dose at age  $\leq 6$  months should receive 3 doses of PCV at intervals of approximately 8 weeks (with a minimum interval of 4

weeks). The fourth (booster) dose is recommended at age 12–15 months and ≥8 weeks after the third dose. Infants should begin the schedule at age 2 months, although the first dose can be administered as early as 6 weeks.

**Infants aged 7–11 months.** When PCV is initiated at age 7–11 months, 3 doses (either PCV13 or PCV15) are recommended. The first 2 doses should be administered with an interval of ≥4 weeks between doses. The third dose should be administered at age 12–15 months, ≥8 weeks after the second PCV dose.

**Children aged 12–23 months.** When PCV is initiated at 12–23 months of age, 2 doses (either PCV13 or PCV15) are recommended, with an interval of ≥8 weeks between doses.

**Children aged 24–71 months.** Unvaccinated healthy children aged 24–59 months should receive a single dose of PCV (either PCV13 or PCV15). Unvaccinated children aged 24–71 months with any risk condition should receive 2 doses of PCV (either PCV13 or PCV15) with an interval of ≥8 weeks between doses. Routine use of PCV is not recommended for healthy children aged ≥5 years who have not yet received a dose of PCV.

**Children and adolescents aged 6–18 years with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak.** If a dose of PCV13 or PCV15 has not been administered previously, a single dose of PCV13 or PCV15 is recommended, regardless of whether the child has previously received PPSV23, even if PCV7 was received.

### **Persons Aged <19 Years Vaccinated Previously with PCV13 or PCV15**

**Infants and children aged <24 months.** Infants and children aged <24 months who have received ≥1 dose of PCV (either PCV13 or PCV15) should complete the vaccination series with either PCV13 or PCV15.

**Children aged 24–71 months.** For all healthy children aged 24–59 months with any incomplete PCV schedule as of age 24 months, 1 additional dose of PCV is recommended. For children aged 24–71 months with any risk conditions who have received any incomplete schedule of <3 PCV doses before age 24 months, 2 additional PCV doses are recommended. Children aged 24–71 months with any risk conditions who have received their 3-dose PCV primary series before age 12 months but have not received their fourth booster dose, are recommended to receive a single additional PCV dose. The minimum interval between doses is 8 weeks.

**Complete PCV 13 vaccination.** A supplemental dose of PCV15 is not indicated for children who have received 4 doses of PCV13 or who completed another age appropriate PCV13 schedule.

### **[Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule Recommendations for Ages 18 Years or Younger, United States, 2022](#)**

### **[Recommendations for Pneumococcal Vaccines Use in Children and Teens](#)**

### **[PCV Catch Up Job Aid](#)**

#### **Recommended Dosage and Administration**

The recommended dose is 0.5mL administered as an intramuscular injection. Both PCV13 and PCV15 are supplied as a prefilled syringe. Refer to the package inserts for further details.

PCV 13 or PCV 15 can be administered at the same time as other vaccines.

**Vaccine Storage and Handling**

- Store refrigerated at 2 - 8°C (36 - 46°F).
- Do not freeze. Protect from light.
- Do not use product if exposed to out of range temperatures.
- Do not use after expiration date shown on the label.

**Precautions**

- Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever.

**Contraindications**

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to any vaccine component or following a prior dose
- Severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to any diphtheria-toxoid-containing vaccine or to its vaccine component

**Reporting of Adverse Events**

Adverse events following administration of any vaccine should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Reports can be submitted to VAERS online, by fax, or by mail. Additional information about VAERS is available by telephone (1-800-822-7967) or online (<https://vaers.hhs.gov>).

**Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) /Immunization Program Recommendations**

The Iowa HHS Immunization Program routinely follows and promotes the ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule. The Immunization Program is implementing PCV15 vaccine in accordance with the ACIP recommendations and the federal VFC resolution.

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